

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 5 and 8-10 and cancel claims 2, 3, 6, 7 and 14 without prejudice, as follows:

1. (canceled)

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) An optical connector for use with optical cables comprising an optical plug for interfacing with the end of an optical cable and an optical adapter optically connecting two optical plugs to each other, each of which can be mounted at the end of an optical cable;
electronic means associated with an optical plug containing data identifying a cable to which said optical plug is connected, and
contactless reading / writing means on said optical plug and on said adapter for transferring identifying data in the form of electrical signals from said electronic means to a reading device when an optical plug associated with a predetermined cable is connected to said optical plug ~~An optical connector according to claim 14, in which, wherein~~ said memory means is an integrated circuit formed into an electromagnetic induction system.

6. (canceled)

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An optical connector for use with optical cables comprising an optical plug for interfacing with the end of an optical cable and an optical adapter optically connecting two optical plugs to each other, each of which can be mounted at the end of an optical cable;

electronic means associated with an optical plug containing data identifying a cable to which said optical plug is connected, and

contactless reading / writing means on said optical plug and on said adapter for transferring identifying data in the form of electrical signals from said electronic means to a reading device when an optical plug associated with a predetermined cable is connected to said optical plug ~~An optical connector according to claim 14, in which, wherein~~ an antenna is mounted on said adapter to electromagnetically-inductively couple to an integrated circuit.

9. (currently amended) An optical connector for use with optical cables comprising an optical plug for interfacing with the end of an optical cable and an optical adapter optically connecting two optical plugs to each other, each of which can be mounted at the end of an optical cable;

electronic means associated with an optical plug containing data identifying a cable to which said optical plug is connected, and

contactless reading / writing means on said optical plug and on said adapter for transferring identifying data in the form of electrical signals from said electronic means to a reading device when an optical plug associated with a predetermined cable is connected to said optical plug ~~An optical~~

~~connector according to claim 2, in which , wherein said optical plug includes memory means mounted on a housing accommodating therein an optical connection portion of said optical connector plug,~~ an antenna is being mounted on said adapter to electromagnetically-inductively couple to an integrated circuit.

10. (currently amended) An optical connector for use with optical cables comprising an optical plug for interfacing with the end of an optical cable and an optical adapter optically connecting two optical plugs to each other, each of which can be mounted at the end of an optical cable;

electronic means associated with an optical plug containing data identifying a cable to which said optical plug is connected, and

contactless reading / writing means on said optical plug and on said adapter for transferring identifying data in the form of electrical signals from said electronic means to a reading device when an optical plug associated with a predetermined cable is connected to said optical plug ~~An optical connector according to claim 3, in which, wherein said optical plug includes memory means mountable on an outer construction of a housing accommodating therein an optical connection portion of said optical connector plug,~~ an antenna is being mounted on said adapter to electromagnetically-inductively couple to an integrated circuit.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) A system for testing insertion loss in optical cables comprising:
an optical connector including an optical plug interfacing with an end of an optical cable to be tested and an adapter for optically connecting two optical plugs to each other, each of which can be mounted at the end of another optical cable;

a light source;

a master optical cable optically connected at one end to said light source;

electronic means associated with said optical plug containing data in the form of electrical signals identifying a cable to be tested;

computing means;

contactless reading / writing means on said optical plug and on said adapter for transferring and identifying data from said electronic means to said computing means when an optical plug associated with a cable to be tested is connected to said adapter; and

a light power meter having an input for receiving an optical signal and having an output connected to said computing means for generating a signal indicative of the light intensity at said input, said master optical cable being selectively connected at the other end directly to said light power meter to obtain a reference light intensity at said light power meter and to said adapter when the optical cable to be tested is connected to said adapter and to said light power meter,

whereby the insertion loss determined by said computing means can be associated with a specific cable characterized by said identifying data.

13. (previously presented) Method for testing insertion loss of optical cables comprising the steps of:

interfacing an optical connector including an optical plug with an end of an optical cable to be tested and an adapter for optically connecting two optical plugs to each other, each of which can be mounted at the end of another optical cable;

optically connecting said adapter to said light source by means of a master optical cable;

obtaining a reference reading by connecting said master optical cable directly to a light power meter and computer means;

subsequently optically connecting said master optical cable to said adapter and connecting a cable to be tested, with an optical plug, to said adapter and said light power meter for attaining a light intensity representative of the insertion loss of the cable being tested;

determining with said computing means the insertion loss by comparing the light intensities when said master optical cable is selectively connected directly to the light power meter and when

connected in series with a cable being tested; and

contactlessly reading / writing identifying data on said optical plug and on said adapter for transferring said identifying data from said electronic means to said computing means when an optical plug associated with a cable to be tested is connected to said optical plug;

whereby the insertion loss determined by said computing means can be associated with a specific cable characterized by said identifying data.

14. (canceled)